

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

5 1-16. (CANCELLED)

17. (NEW) An apparatus for expanding the inside diameter of a cable adapter while maintaining lubricant on the inside surface of said cable adapter comprising:

- 10 (a) a tapered shell, wherein said tapered shell comprises a first dimension at a first end and a second dimension at a second end, said second dimension being larger than said first dimension, and wherein said tapered shell removably mates to said
- 15 inside surface of said cable adapter, thereby expanding said inside diameter of said cable adapter;
- (b) a means for retaining lubricant on the interface between said tapered shell and said cable adapter; and
- (c) a bore disposed within said tapered shell for
- 20 removably coupling to a cable member to effect placement of said cable member within said cable adapter,

wherein said cable adapter and said cable member mate upon removal of said tapered shell.

18. (NEW) An apparatus as described in claim 17, wherein said means for retaining lubrication comprises a plurality of surface protrusions.

5

19. (NEW) An apparatus as described in claim 18, wherein said plurality of surface protrusions are positioned about the outer surface of said tapered shell.

10 20. (NEW) An apparatus as described in claim 17, wherein at least a portion of said plurality of surface protrusions extends perpendicularly to the circumference of said tapered shell.

15 21. (NEW) An apparatus as described in claim 17, wherein said tapered shell further comprises an extended end.

22. (NEW) An apparatus as described in claim 17, wherein said tapered shell is used in high-voltage cable splicing.

20

23. (NEW) An apparatus as described in claim 17, wherein said tapered shell further comprises attachment means for connecting to a connecting device.

24. (NEW) An apparatus as described in claim 17, wherein said tapered shell further comprises two separable halves, each of said halves extending along the longitudinal axis of said apparatus.

5

25. (NEW) An apparatus as described in claim 24, wherein said halves separate to assist in removal of said tapered shell.

10 26. (NEW) A method for expanding the inside diameter of a cable adapter while retaining lubricant on the inside surface of said cable adapter comprising the steps of:

(a) providing at least one cable member and at least one cable adapter;

15 (b) providing a tapered shell including a plurality of surface protrusions located on the exterior surface of said tapered shell;

(c) providing lubrication means for lubricating said exterior surface of said tapered shell;

20 (d) positioning said tapered shell and said cable member within said cable adapter to expand the inside diameter of said cable adapter, and wherein said surface protrusions assist in retaining lubrication on the inside surface of said cable adapter.

27. (NEW) A method as described in claim 26, wherein said lubricant is uniformly distributed along the outer surface of said tapered shell.

5

28. (NEW) An apparatus for expanding the inside diameter of a cable adapter while retaining lubricant on the inside surface of an expandable cable adapter comprising:

(a) a tapered shell with a plurality of surface protrusions for expanding said inside diameter of said cable adapter and retaining lubricant on the interface between said tapered shell and said cable adapter, wherein said tapered shell comprises a first dimension at a first end and a second dimension at a second end, said second dimension being larger than said first dimension; and

10

15

(b) a bore disposed within said tapered shell for removably coupling to a cable member to effect placement of the cable member within said cable adapter,

20

wherein said cable adapter and said cable member mate upon removal of said tapered shell.